Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2 (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A unit as in claim [[2]] 27 which includes additional circuits to evaluate the received synchronizing signal ~~for the presence of a signal expected indicium,~~ and, responsive thereto, to determine if an additional message is expected.

4. (Currently Amended) A unit as in claim 3 which includes further circuitry to extend [[to]] the active mode and to acquire and respond to any expected additional message.

5. (Original) A unit as in claim 3 where the control circuitry comprises, at least in part, a processor and executable instructions.

6. (Original) A unit as in claim 5 which includes timer circuitry, coupled to the processor, for initiating the periodic, limited duration active mode.

7. (Currently Amended) A unit as in claim 5 which includes executable instructions for at least receiving data using a different protocol ~~then~~ than a protocol exhibited by the synchronizing signal.

8. (Currently Amended) A unit as in claim 5 which includes executable instructions for transmitting data with a different protocol than a protocol of the received synchronizing signal.

9. (Original) A unit as in claim 7 which includes executable instructions that sense and decode multiple data signals received from multiple sources substantially simultaneously.

10. (Previously Presented) A unit as in claim 9 where the sense and decode process comprises bit arbitration.

11. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

transmitting a wireless synchronizing signal on a periodic basis;

entering an active mode to receive and evaluate the synchronizing signal, and responsive thereto, entering one of a data receiving or a data transmitting mode with the data having a different protocol than the synchronizing signal; ~~and~~

remaining in the active mode for a period of time at least until no further data is received and which includes transmitting data signals at different offsets relative to the synchronizing signal in response to a substantially random number.

12. (Original) A method as in claim 11 which includes evaluating multiple simultaneously received data signals and discerning one from another.

13. (Original) A method as in claim 12 which includes minimizing energy requirements at a plurality of synchronizing signal receiving locations between such signals.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A communication system comprising at least three devices that can wirelessly transmit and receive signals;

a first device that transmits a wireless ~~wirelessly transmitting a~~ synchronization signal;

at least a second device receiving the wireless synchronization signal, the second device synchronizes functions to the synchronization signal such that ~~the~~ energy consumption of the second device is reduced for a period of time between synchronization signals; and

at least a third device receiving the wireless synchronization signal, the third device synchronizes functions to the synchronization signal such that the energy consumption of the third device is reduced for a period of time between synchronization signals, where the second device is capable of receiving a wireless signal from the third device and the third device is capable of receiving a wireless signal from the second device, and where the second device and the third device enter an active mode upon receipt of the synchronization signal and remain in the active mode at least for a period of time during which a wireless signal is received from at least the third device or at least the second device and where each of the second and third devices carries out a bit arbitration process while wirelessly transmitting signals.

16. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 15 where at least one of the second device or the third device includes a battery.

17. (Original) A system as in claim 15 where the synchronization signal is transmitted periodically with a predetermined timing.

18. (Original) A system as in claim 15 where the synchronization signal includes at least one of RF frequencies, optical frequencies or sonic frequencies.

19. (Original) A system as in claim 15 where the synchronizing function includes transmitting a signal representative of a detector state.

20. (Original) A system as in claim 18 where a detector state comprises at least one of an alarm, trouble, voltage, input, or sensor condition.

21. (Original) A system as in claim 18 where the first device receives the transmitted signal.

22. (Original) A system as in claim 18 wherein the said transmitting of a signal includes at least in part a frequency that is the same as the synchronization signal frequency.

23. (Original) A system as in claim 15 where the synchronization signal includes variable frequencies.

24. (Original) A system as in claim 15 which includes a plurality of devices receiving the wireless synchronization signal.

25. (Original) A system as in claim 24 where members of the plurality each include circuitry to transmit data signals at different offsets from the synchronizing signal in response to at least one of, a substantially random number, or, a unique device identifier.

26. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising a plurality of wireless units where each wireless unit in the plurality receives a wireless synchronization signal, each wireless unit is capable of receiving a wireless signal transmitted from a second wireless unit within the plurality, and <u>of transmitting wireless signals to other members of the plurality, where</u> energy consumption of each wireless unit is reduced for a period of time between no longer receiving a wireless signal from the second wireless unit and receiving the wireless synchronization signal <u>and where each unit includes circuitry to carry out bit arbitration with respect to received wireless signals</u>.

27. (New) An electrical unit comprising:
a wireless communications port;
a transceiver coupled to the port; and

control circuitry coupled to the port, and the transceiver, the control circuitry having, at least, an inactive mode interrupted by an intermittent, limited duration active mode, including circuitry to monitor the port for receipt of a wireless synchronizing signal, and responsive thereto to enter the active mode and receive other incoming signals with the control circuitry responding to an incoming signal requesting information by transmitting requested information via the transceiver and where the control circuitry simultaneously monitors signals received from the transceiver and determines, in response thereto, that a higher priority message is being received.

28. (New) A unit as in claim 27 where the control circuitry, responsive to a higher priority message being received, terminates transmission until the higher priority message is no longer being received.

29. (New) A unit as in claim 28 where the control circuitry restarts transmission of the requested information after the higher priority message is no longer being received.